Meeting of tobacco growers association

1678. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has called a meeting of tobacco growers associations in 2007-08 to discuss their problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what were the demands;

(d) whether it is a fact that easy entry of imported cigarettes has harmed Andhra Pradesh tobacco farmers; and

(e) the steps proposed to plug the loopholes and assist Indian tobacco farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No, Sir. The import of cigarettes has gone up from Rs. 13.32 crore in 2002-03 to Rs. 50.26 crore in 2006-07. During the period the production of the Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco in Andhra Pradesh has gone up from 127.67 million kgs to 171.95 million kgs. and the average price realizations of growers of the State from Rs. 34.83 per kg to Rs. 47.47 per kg. Liberalized import of cigarettes. therefore. does not seem to has adversely affected the interests of tobacco growers.

(e) Does not arise.

Setting up of spice parks

1679. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up Spice Parks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and what fiscal and financial incentives shall be given to these parks;

(c) whether the locations of such parks have been identified;

(d) if so, who identifies the location and what is the size of such parks;

(e) who will be responsible for developing the infrastructure in such parks; and

(f) what will be the role and obligations of the respective State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, sir.